

# WELCOME PRESIDENT NAMBARYN ENKHBAYAR OF MONGOLIA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week President Nambaryn Enkhbayar of Mongolia visited the United States to meet with President Bush and discuss the growing partnership between our two nations. As cochair of the Mongolian Caucus, I was grateful for President Enkhbayar's visit. Mongolia and the United States continue to work closely together to strengthen our economic and strategic alliances, as well as our efforts internationally.

Madam Speaker, I am particularly appreciative of the Mongolian people's continued support of our efforts in Iraq as the central front in the global war on terrorism. During the visit, President Bush and President Enkhbayar signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact. A millennium challenge compact is an initiative by the United States to help developing nations expand their economic growth by investing in infrastructure, health care, education, transportation and other areas.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

Happy birthday, Alan Stedman of Haddenfield, New Jersey.

# AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN IRAQ ARE TIRED, BITTER AND SKEPTICAL, AND YET BUSH ONLY OFFERS STATUS QUO

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, as President Bush allows the war in Iraq to drag on, with no change in policy and no end in sight, it is important that we hear what our combat soldiers are saying on the front lines of that war. Over the weekend, The Washington Post published a story on the First Infantry Division of the First Battalion, which has been patrolling the streets of Baghdad for the last 14 months. Those troops are tired, bitter and skeptical. One such soldier told the reporter, and I am quoting, "I don't think this place is worth another soldiers' life."

Our soldiers are also frustrated that decisionmakers here in Washington don't fully realize what is going on. Quoting another soldier: "They just know back there what the higher-ups tell them. But the higher-ups don't go anywhere, and actually they only go to the safe places with a little bit of gunfire. They don't see what we see on the ground." Having been to Iraq a number of times, as many of my colleagues have, how true that is.

Madam Speaker, none of us in this Chamber can imagine what our soldiers

go through on a daily basis in Iraq, but the White House needs to start listening to them. It is well past time to bring our sons and daughters home from this fiasco we call the war in Iraq.

# TRULY SCARY HALLOWEEN

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, today is Halloween. The Democrats are doing a good job celebrating it. They are handing out entitlements like Halloween candy. The question is how are we going to pay for it. Well, they have approved \$431 billion in new taxes this year, but for Halloween they have got something that is really scary: the mother of all tax increases, the biggest tax increase in the history of our country, \$3.5 trillion.

The question becomes on Halloween, with fuel prices going up, with the cost of health care going up, with the cost of housing going up, how can we face something as scary as the mother of all tax increases.

# VETERANS DAY

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, the war to end all wars, World War I, ended on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1911. In these words, Armistice Day became our Nation's day to give our gratitude to all, to all of our servicemen and women, as President Wilson proclaimed: "To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations."

Peace and justice. Peace and justice.

President Eisenhower would later, in 1954, change this title to Veterans Day. This 110th Congress has fulfilled its duty to the spirit and the meaning of Veterans Day by passing the largest increase in veterans benefits in the past 77 years, making certain all vets receive the benefits they have earned.

This Veterans Day day, please, please thank a veteran for their service, for this is still our Nation's finest hour.

# EARMARK MINUTE

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, Democrats wisely seized on earmark reform as an issue during last year's elections. I believe that their promises of reform, coupled with the Republican Party's

inability to control earmarks, directly contributed to the Democrats' success in last year's elections. However, the majority party does not appear to be following through with the substantive reforms that were promised.

Take the Labor-HHS bill that will soon be considered in conference. It contains more than 1,300 House earmarks, more than 1,000 Senate earmarks. It goes without saying that few of these earmarks have received even a cursory screening, let alone a thorough vetting. We need to remember that we are only halfway through the process and it is in the conference that much of the earmark mischief occurs. Public confidence in our ability as stewards of their taxpayer dollars will further erode.

Madam Speaker, while watching the Democrats make the same political miscalculations as we did in the majority may delight us as Republicans, it has to be sorely disappointing to taxpayers. I urge all Members, Republicans and Democrats, to support legislation to impose an earmark moratorium until we can scrutinize all earmarks.

□ 1015

# SCHIP HALLOWEEN

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, President Bush is continuing to oppose a bipartisan plan to give 10 million children the health care they need. This morning, the Associated Press reported that President Bush will veto any plan that raises the resources necessary to fund children's health care.

An overwhelming majority of Republicans and Democrats in Congress disagree with the President on this issue. But the President is content to continue to stand between 10 million children and their health care. The President's refusal to move forward could have serious consequences for middle-class families.

The New York Times reported today that 21 States will run out of money for children's health care this year if the spending for the SCHIP program continues only at current levels. The parents of these children earn a paycheck, not a welfare check. Millions of children and their parents are counting on this President and Republicans in Congress to offer more than an emergency room as health care.

The same children who are counting on the President to act will celebrate Halloween this evening and President Bush won't miss out on the fun. At 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, President Bush is having what he calls a SCHIP Halloween. It's all trick, no treat. He's preventing health care coverage for millions of kids.